

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

TO: Social Work Committee Housing Committee	Subject: IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT EQUIPMENT & ADAPTATIONS WORKING GROUP - PROGRESS REPORT
FROM: Director of Social Work Director of Housing & Property Services	
DATE OF SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE: 22 March 2001 DATE OF HOUSING & PROPERTY SERVICES COMMITTEE: 29 March 2001	
REPORT AUTHOR: Duncan Mackay	
REF: DM/JG/E&AWG	

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides Committee with a progress report on implementation of the decisions of the Joint Equipment and Adaptations Working Group.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A report to Social Work and Housing Committees in October 1999 identified a number of issues relating to the assessment and provision of community equipment and adaptations. Committee approved a recommendation to establish a joint officer/member working group. The findings of the group were agreed by Committee in November 2000.

3 SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

- 3.1 The table set out in Appendix 1 summarises the decisions of the working group and progress achieved to date. The action plan is complex and ambitious but several key developments will have been enacted for 1 April 2001, including:

- ◆ Unifying contracts for temporary installations, to be let by Housing Department Contracts Division
- ◆ Uniformly applying the standard prioritisation system for adaptations to equipment
- ◆ Centralising administration of equipment from Social Work area teams to Disability Resource Centre
- ◆ Introducing electronic requisition systems and referrals for all equipment.

3.2 In addition the following has also been achieved:

- ◆ Interest has been registered in a Council owned site for a proposed joint equipment store
- ◆ Funding has been obtained to purchase a suitable mobile unit which will provide information and small items of equipment in localities
- ◆ Agreement has been reached between Social Work and Housing on the administration of "top-ups" to improvement grants. The detail of this will be reported to the next cycle of Committees
- ◆ Occupational therapists are no longer required to support applicants through the grant application process - this is being carried out by the grants section in conjunction with Care and Repair.

3.3 An assessment of demand measured against budget will also be carried out. This process will determine how far funding from both the General Fund and Housing Revenue will go towards meeting demand. It is anticipated that the level of Housing Revenue funding will enable installations to be done for council tenants with lower priorities (as determined by the points assessment) than will be achievable for clients in the private sector.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Committee is asked to:

- (i) note progress made to date in implementing the decisions of the Council on equipment and adaptations; and
- (ii) note that a further progress report will be brought forward to the next Social Work and Housing Committees.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
7th March 2001



Thomas McKenzie
Director of Housing & Property Services
7th March 2001

For further information on this report please contact . Duncan Mackay Principal Officer (Planning and Development) (TEL: 01698 332067) or John Gormley (Service Development Manager) (TEL: 01236 812650)

1 - Progress Summary of Working Group Decisions

	Progress	Lead Department/Officer	Timescale
<p>ment of a Joint and Store with Health use, stock manage, deliver, fit, rate, recycle, repair tain all equipment</p>	<p>Site identification exercise completed by Council Property Services and Lanarkshire Primary Care NHS Trust Estates Department. Interest registered in preferred site. Internal inspection planned with service user representation.</p>	<p>Principal Officer Planning & Development (Social Work)</p>	<p>Subject to ap site and reno costs.</p>
<p>ment of a central to enable people to ad, where ate, buy equipment, ide the relevant ion to inform such This to be developed plementary mobile a and could be part of store.</p>	<p>Whether this can be included within a joint store is subject to above.</p> <p>Funds to purchase suitable mobile provision approved by Council.</p> <p>Proposed new respite centre includes facilities for carers that can be used for this purpose.</p>	<p>Principal Officer Planning & Development (Social Work)</p>	<p>As above</p> <p>June 2001</p> <p>Funding appl be made Apr</p>
<p>a of single ency assessment ccording to an t of protocols across using a common</p>	<p>A jointly developed community care assessment tool is used universally in Social Work and by Health staff in specific projects. The successful Modernising Government Fund bid allows for this to be more widely introduced into Health services. This to be informed by a Social Work review of assessment and care management.</p>	<p>Principal Officer Planning & Development (Social Work)</p>	<p>December 20 one Local He Co-operative</p>

	Progress	Lead Department/Officer	Timescale
opportunities for assessment.	Further consultation is planned with service users and carers.	Principal Officer Planning & Development (Social Work)	April 2001
of a standard system.	The priority system in use for housing adaptations will be applied to all assessments for equipment from 1 April, so as to create uniformity across the authority and allow comparison of services provided in different localities.	Social Work Area Managers	April 2001
the points scoring to clarify what level of be met.	Housing have created an implementation working group and included this in its remit. The group are currently assessing demand within the context of available resources.	Service Development Manager (Housing)	August 2001
for installations of as adaptations with control lying within a Service/Department.	The Housing working group is preparing implementation plans. Meantime, from 1 April, administration of all temporary installations will be managed by the Social Work Disability Resource Centre, so freeing up time of occupational therapists and other staff.	Projects and Quality Manager (Housing)	Report to Audit Committees
unified maintenance for large items of nt.	All service and maintenance contracts for large equipment will, from 1 April, be let by the Housing Department Contracts Division, facilitated by budget transfer from Social Work to Housing	Projects and Quality Manager (Housing)	April 2001

Decision	Progress	Lead Department/Officer	Times
ent grants, "top-ups" to be red solely by the Department Grants	Work close to completion, facilitated by budget transfer from Social Work to Housing	Improvement Grants Manager (Housing)	May 2001
eligibility for ent grants to include items.	Work close to completion. Agreement to include specified items for grant eligibility.	Improvement Grants Manager (Housing)	May 2001
the Care and Repair s the service which applicants through process.	Procedure issued which clarifies agency and departmental responsibilities, which relieves occupational therapists of supporting people through the process. This will now be undertaken by the Housing Grants section and Care and Repair as required.	Improvement Grants Manager (Housing)	Completed
a clear set of criteria.	Being considered as part of an overall Social Work review of assessment and care management.	Head of Social Work Services	August 2001
d publish service	As above.	Head of Social Work Services	August 2001
continued policy of ng, subject to future	Existing policy continued.	None	No further act required

	Progress	Lead Department/Officer	Timescale
mediate ments for nal therapy in Social	Occupational therapists are being freed of duties to negotiate contracts; to tender for and order large items of equipment; and to support applicants through the grants process. Electronic requisitioning of all equipment from area teams to Disability Resource Centre will be operational from 1 April.	Principal Officer Planning & Development (Social Work)	April
ole and management ents of occupational n Social Work	Currently being reviewed within Social Work in the context of Departmental restructuring and national policy initiatives.	Head of Social Work Services	Augu